Drop-out rate

1756. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is 14.4 per cent drop-out rate in grade I and 4.4 per cent in grades II and III;

(b) if so, the reasons for these drop-outs especially when the primary level education is free and mostly supported by Mid-day Meals;

(c) whether it is due to non-availability of teachers, especially in rural areas and creaky infrastructure; and

(d) the steps adopted by Government to ensure zero-tolerance level relating to drop-outs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) During 2004-05, drop-out rate at primary stage (Classes I-V) was 29 per cent. Grade wise drop-out rate are not being calculated.

(b) to (d) The socio-economic and school related factors affect drop-outs. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for reducing drop-out rates. These include, *inter alia,* strengthening of schools and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision, provision of annual school grants, regular training of teachers, regular academic support to teachers etc. In addition, interventions under SSA also aim at building community support, flexible schooling for the hardest to reach children, special provision to promote education of girls, as well as children with special need. The Mid-day Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce dropout rates.

Professional institutions

1757. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many professional institutions are there in the country, offering degrees and diplomas;

(b) how many among these institutions are run by Government, wholly or partly, and how many are run by private enterprises completely;

(c) whether Government has any machinery to control the admission processes in the privately managed professional isntitutions;

(d) if so, to which extent; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The details of technical education institutions—Government and Private—approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) up to the academic year 2007-08 is given in the Statement (*See* below)

At present, there are 271 Medical Colleges in the country, of which 138 are Government and remaining 133 are private.

(c) to (e) Admissions to private technical institutions is regulated by the State level Admission Committee set up in accordance with relevant judgements of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.